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## Weekly Survey of Communist Military Developments in Indochina

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23

8 May 1974

DIA review(s)  
completed.

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Sixty-Second Report

WEEKLY SURVEY  
OF COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS  
IN INDOCHINA\*

(This report covers the period May 1-7, 1974)

The Key Points

- Troop infiltration to South Vietnam resumed last week as two new regular groups with almost 1,000 troops were detected entering the pipeline in North Vietnam.
- Logistic activity continued at a heavy pace in North Vietnam, Laos, and northern South Vietnam during the reporting period.
- [redacted] North Vietnam received at least six more MIG-19 jet fighters from China, bringing the total number delivered this year to at least 28.
- The North Vietnamese are expanding the cargo-handling capacity of the Dong Ha transshipment point in Quang Tri Province, strongly suggesting that they will make even heavier use of this facility in the near future.

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\* This report has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.

[redacted]  
May 8, 1974

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**Preface**

This report is the sixty-second in a series summarizing evidence received during the reporting period of (I) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military supplies toward and into South Vietnam, (II) significant Communist combat activity, and (III) other developments affecting Communist military capabilities in Indochina.

## DETAILS

**I. Infiltration and Redeployment of North Vietnamese Personnel and Military Supplies**

*Personnel Infiltration*

1. Troop infiltration to the south resumed last week, as two new regular groups were detected entering the pipeline in the Vinh area. According to a May 6 message, one regular group en route to South Vietnam's central coast and one destined for northern MR 1 were moving south with a total strength of nearly 1,000 troops (see the table below). The latter group is the first regular group observed moving to northern MR 1 since last September. The appearance of these two new groups further indicates that troop infiltration during the "new phase" (see last week's report) will be focused on northern MR 1 and the central coast of South Vietnam.

2. Because the North Vietnamese use a sequential numbering system for regular infiltration, the designators of the two new groups indicate that 14 additional groups, with an estimated strength of about 7,000 troops, have been committed to infiltrate these two areas. Most gaps which have appeared thus far in the present infiltration cycle, however, have been small -- 3 or 4 groups. Therefore, it is likely that the two new groups are out of sequence and that most of the 14 gap groups will move south in subsequent weeks. Thus, the latter groups will not be accepted pending receipt of additional information.

**Comparative Starts of Troops  
from North Vietnam, by Destination**  
September 1 - May 7

	1972-73	1973-74
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>81,500</b>
MR Tri-Thien	26,000	2,500
MR 5	9,000	9,500
B-3 Front	14,000	10,000
COSVN	26,000	37,000
Southern Laos/MR 559	11,000	22,500

3. The observed rate of northward-moving personnel in April continued to drop sharply. During the month, about 3,400 exfiltrators, more than half of whom were sick or wounded personnel, were noted moving north through southern North Vietnam. April's rate was less than half the number observed during March and

a decrease of more than three-quarters from February's total of about 14,000 [redacted]

[redacted] Since the beginning of 1974, nearly 37,000 exfiltrators have been observed moving northward through the Vinh area. The drop in exfiltration may indicate in large part that the Communists are completing their plan to clear most sick and wounded from hospitals in the south.

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#### *Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies*

##### *North Vietnam*

4. Communist logistic units in southern North Vietnam apparently continued to move cargo southward at a steady pace during the week. The heaviest activity detected occurred in the Binh Tram (BT) 16 area near Dong Hoi where several cargo shipments, including small quantities of ordnance, were noted. [redacted]

[redacted] a subordinate element of BT 16 received 3 barges carrying some 65 tons of cargo and dispatched 15 vehicles with more than 50 tons of ordnance. This same unit also indicated that it planned to turn over 1,100 tons of rice to unspecified units, apparently in the near future. [redacted]

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[redacted] another element of BT 16 reported receiving 85 tons, bringing the amount of cargo it held in storage awaiting shipment to 1,000 tons.

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##### *Laos*

5. Despite seasonal rains, Communist logistic units again made heavy use of the main supply route in the Laotian Panhandle. [redacted]

[redacted] more than 500 vehicles were moving north and south on these days. Most of the southbound trucks were destined for the central highlands and the COSVN area of South Vietnam.

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6. There are indications, however, that heavy rains are beginning to have an adverse impact on road conditions. [redacted] a unit in the southern Panhandle stated that 14 vehicles could not leave because of the rains, while later in the week a North Vietnamese unit reported that 18 vehicles had been delayed because there are many spots where the rain had washed the road away. In the weeks ahead, heavy rains will undoubtedly cause additional slowdowns in logistic activity as the monsoon season takes full effect.

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##### *South Vietnam*

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8. Recent examples include the [redacted] dispatch of more than 300 tons of ordnance, including 65 tons of 122-mm rockets and 30 tons of 130-mm artillery ammunition, by one storage area. During the next two days, another subordinate element of the 541st Regiment shipped another 200 tons of ordnance, including 4 tons of Soviet AT-3 anti-tank missiles. Although the AT-3 has been present in South Vietnam since the 1972 offensive, this is the initial reference to the missile being shipped by rear service units in Quang Tri Province.

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## II. Significant Communist Combat Activity

9. Communist-initiated violations declined last week from an average of 109 to 85 per day. The daily number of casualties increased from 116 to 148 for the Communists, while ARVN losses declined from 40 to 28. The week was highlighted by the ARVN cross-border operation against the NVA 5th Infantry Division in the Parrot's Beak area of Cambodia bordering Hau Nghia Province in MR 3 and the associated fighting in the Kien Tuong Province/Cambodian border area in MR 4. The majority of reported violations continued to be registered in MR 4, while combat activity elsewhere was at a relatively low lcvcl.

## III. Other Developments Affecting Communist Military Capabilities in North Vietnam

### *Deliveries of MIG-19s from the People's Republic of China Continue*

10. [redacted] at least six more Chinese-produced MIG-19s had been delivered to North Vietnam. The aircraft were flown from Nan-ning, China to Kep Airfield northeast of Hanoi, along the same route used in the April 25-26 deliveries reported last week. The arrival of these six fighters raises the total number of Chinese MIG-19s delivered to North Vietnam this year to at least 28 and increases the confirmed North Vietnamese inventory of such aircraft to 66. The following tabulation shows the number and types of North Vietnamese jet fighters.

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Total	239
MIG-21	73
MIG-19	66
MIG-15/17	100

11. Analysis of intercepted North Vietnamese communications indicates that as many as 36 aircraft were scheduled for delivery. If the remaining eight planes are delivered, the North Vietnamese will have enough MIG-19 aircraft to equip two full fighter regiments.

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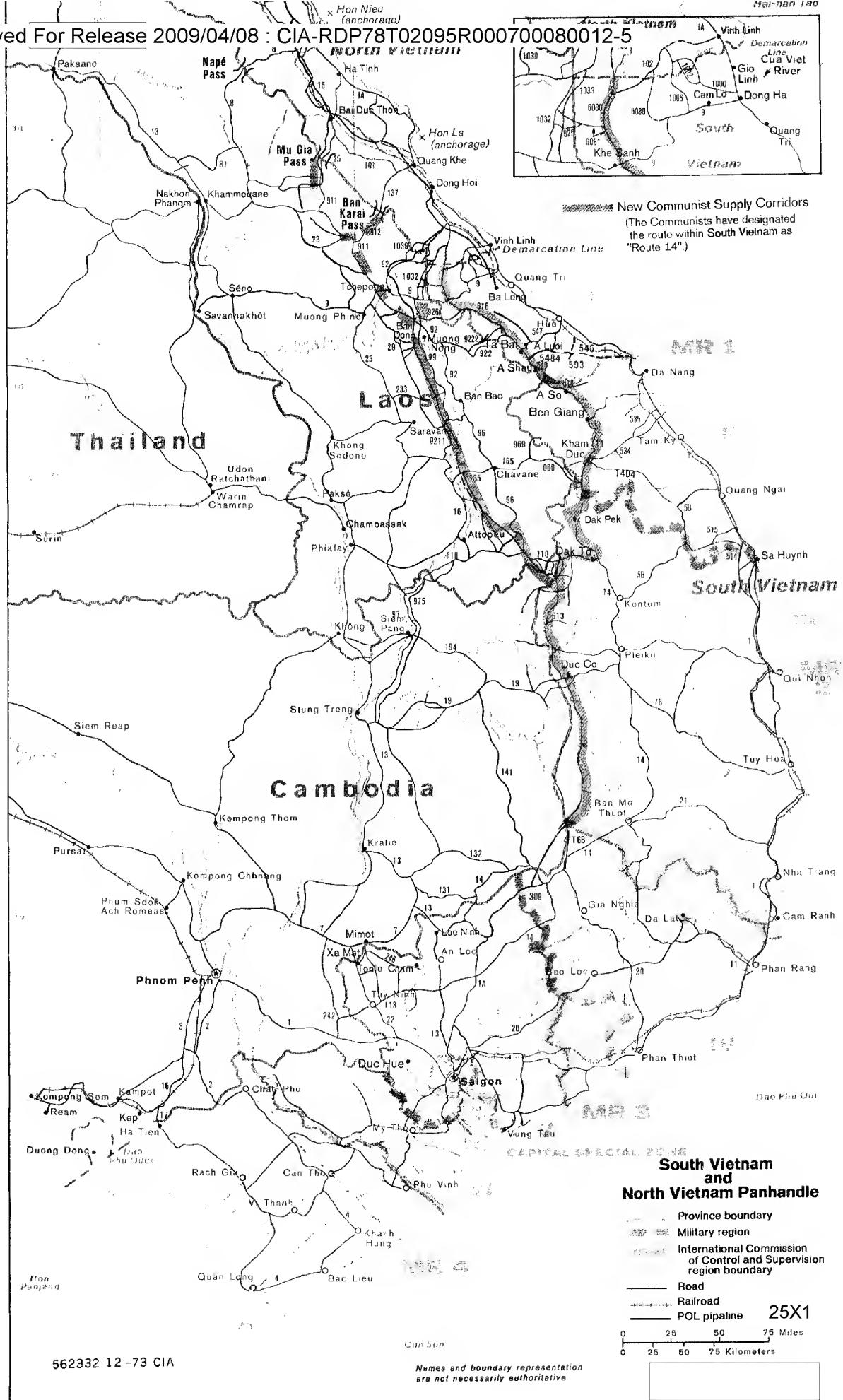
*Expansion of the Dong Ha Transshipment Point*

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12. Recent analysis of [redacted] photography shows new construction at the Dong Ha transshipment point in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam (see the transportation map). More than 600 feet of improved waterfront are being added, which will bring the usable frontage to nearly 1,600 feet. The added berthing area will raise the facility's cargo-handling capacity to about 1,100 tons of cargo per day, exceeding the goal of 1,000 tons announced last September. Last month, at least 15,000 tons (500 tons per day) moved through the Dong Ha transshipment point, the largest monthly figure ever noted.

13. Since late last summer a substantial portion of the supplies entering northern South Vietnam from North Vietnam have passed through the Dong Ha facility. Cargo sent to Dong Ha has been either stored or shipped along Route 9 by elements of the 541st Engineer Regiment. The expansion of Dong Ha strongly suggests that the North Vietnamese will make even heavier use of this transshipment point in the near future.





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## Communist and South Vietnamese Regular Combat Forces in South Vietnam

*South Vietnam*

		MR 1	
VC/NVA <sup>1</sup>	RVN AF <sup>2</sup>	VC/NVA	RVN AF
183,000	372,000	325th	VNMC
		324B	Airborne
		364th	1st
		711th	2nd
		2nd <sup>3</sup>	3rd
		6 <sup>7</sup> -3rd AAA	Regional Forces

1. Includes VC/NVA personnel in ground combat, combat support, and air defense units and local force companies and platoons.

2. RVNAF Ground Order of Battle. Includes assigned personnel in ARVN VNMC ground combat and combat support units, and Regional Force battalions. Although present for duty strength is no longer available, it is estimated to be about 85% of assigned strength.

3. Only one infantry regiment subordinate to the division.

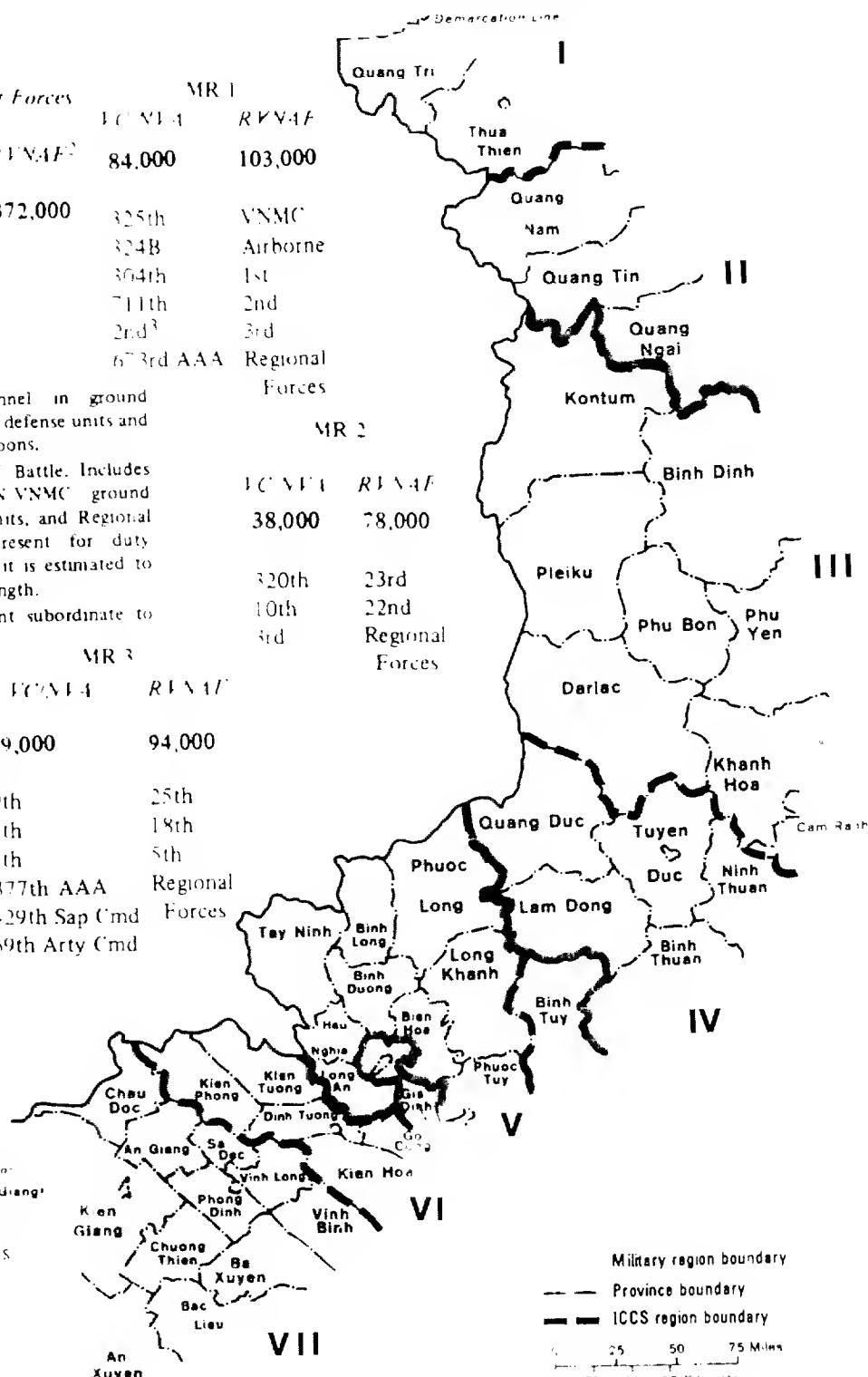
VC/NVA	RVN AF
39,000	94,000

9th	25th
7th	18th
5th	5th
377th AAA	Regional Forces
429th Sap Cmd	
69th Arty Cmd	

## MR 4

VC/NVA	RVN AF
22,000	97,000

1st <sup>3</sup>	21st
	9th
	7th
	Regional Forces



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